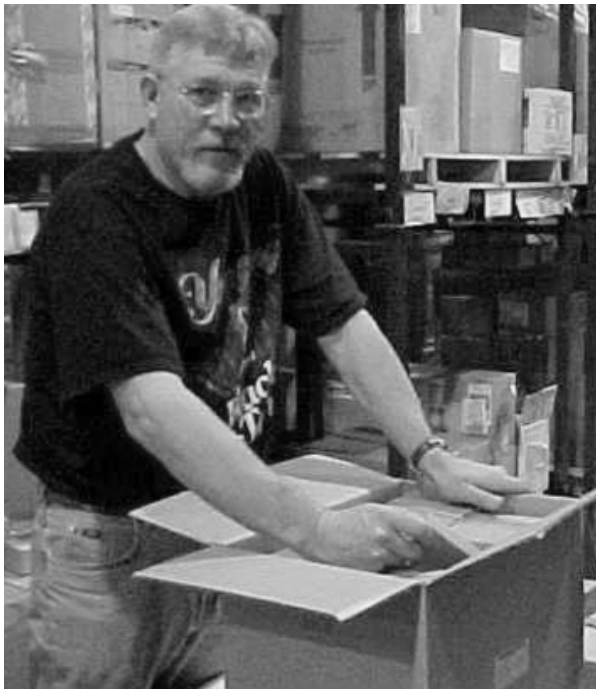


DDSP Has an Unexpected Eight-Legged Guest



DDSP employee David Briner recently opened a carton of casualty blankets from California and found a Black Widow spider.

Forrest Gump said, “Life is like a box of chocolates . . . you never know what you’re gonna get.”

At Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Penn. (DDSP), we don’t believe that’s what was on David Briner’s mind as he opened a carton of casualty blankets for redistribution in DDSP’s Medical Division at the Mechanicsburg, Penn., site. And then . . . along came a spider! A Black Widow spider! When he opened the box and a spider crawled out, Briner observed the red hourglass on its bottom side. He notified his supervisor who called Mechanicsburg Public Works Pest Control to have it removed.

After checking the area within the warehouse, Navy Public Works removed the spider, but did not destroy it. It was saved for identification. Further analysis verified that it was from the Black Widow family of spiders. Furthermore, it did contain poisonous venom.

Black Widow spiders are not common in this region. “DDSP Medical division has always been informed to stay alert. The blankets were a medical supply manufactured and shipped from Oceanside, Calif. Past customer return shipments have produced some interesting guests such as mice, snakes and lizards, and now, a Black Widow spider,” said Occupational Safety and Health Safety

Specialist Keith Morrison.

Morrison advises, “Know where you’re reaching before you place your hands into any carton. It may be more than you bargained for.” If you find a similar unexpected guest while working, notify your supervisor and call your local Pest Control staff.



The unexpected guest at DDSP—a Black Widow spider.



Mechanicsburg Pest Control captures the Black Widow spider.

The majority of injuries that result in lost workdays are back and hand injuries, strains and sprains.